

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SIL-01 NSC-05 INR-05 EUR-08
IO-06 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 SP-02 EB-04 SSM-01 PM-03
DODE-00 ACDA-07 L-01 OMB-01 /066 W
-----020806Z 032651 /23

R 020640Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6441
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3880

LIMDIS

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ELAB, IS
SUBJECT: HISTADRUT SECRETARY GENERAL COMMENTS ON
AFL-CIO REACTION TO LIKUD VICTORY

1. YERUHAM MESHEL, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE HISTADRUT, TOLD LABATT JUNE 1 THAT HE HAD RECEIVED SEVERAL MESSAGES FROM AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY, SECRETARY-TREASURER LANE KIRKLAND AND OTHER US LABOR LEADERS DEPLORING THE LIKUD ELECTORAL VICTORY. ACCORDING TO MESHEL, THE MESSAGES INDICATED THAT SHOULD THE LIKUD WIN THE HISTADRUT ELECTION AND THEN SUPPORT THE HARDLINE FOREIGN POLICY OF A LIKUD GOVERNMENT, THE SPECIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE HISTADRUT AND THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT WOULD PROFOUNDLY CHANGE. MESSAGES OF A SIMILAR NATURE HAD ALSO BEEN RECEIVED FROM SOME EUROPEAN UNION LEADERS.

2. MESHEL FURTHER COMMENTED THAT MOST ISRAELIS
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WERE RATHER PAROCHIAL ("EVERYTHING CENTERED AROUND ISRAEL") AND HAD NO CONCEPTION OF WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD. ALL THEY COULD THINK OF IS "DON'T GIVE UP ANY TERRITORIES." HE SAID HE IS KEEPING THE COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AMERICAN LABOR LEADERS CONFIDENTIAL AT THIS STAGE, BECAUSE HE DOES NOT KNOW HOW THE HISTADRUT

ELECTORATE WOULD REACT IF HE WERE TO PUBLICIZE THEM.
HE FEARS THAT MANY PEOPLE WOULD SIMPLY SEE THEM AS
ADDITIONAL AMERICAN PRESSURE ON THE ISRAELI
ELECTORATE.

3. HE IS NOW WARNING OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
CONSEQUENCES IF THE LIKUD ALSO WINS THE
HISTADRUT ELECTION. ALTHOUGH UNWILLING TO MAKE ANY
PREDICTIONS, HE HAD NOTED SOME BACKLASH REACTION TO
THE LIKUD VICTORY AMONG THE VARIOUS GROUPS HE HAS
ADDRESSED SINCE THE KNESSET ELECTIONS AND FEELS
THAT THERE IS A SWING BACK TO THE ALIGNMENT. WHILE
NOT PREDICTING THAT LABOR WOULD RETAIN A MAJORITY
IN THE HISTADRUT, HE FEELS THAT IT PROBABLY WILL
PULL MORE VOTES THAN THE LIKUD, NOTWITHSTANDING
THE CONSIDERABLE POPULARITY OF LIKUD CANDIDATE
FOR HISTADRUT SECRETARY GENERAL, DAVID LEVY.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV03880
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770196-0437
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770696/aaaadgev.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 09f14086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2298360
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HISTADRUT SECRETARY GENERAL COMMENTS ON AFL-CIO REACTION TO LIKUD VICTORY
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ELAB, IS, LIKUD, (MEANY, GEORGE), (MESHEL, YERUHAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/09f14086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009